

Colonial Secretary is, as a matter of fact, exceptionally oneious, she took it on, without repining, and was often exceedingly amusing about it But she refused, on her part, to alter the name by which she had been known for nearly forty years She had changed her name once, in 1892 she was not going to do it again, in 1929 She did not see why the practice long used in Scotland, in the case of the Law Lords, should not be adopted On this, she was immoveable She made the Prime Minister, and others, very wrath, but nothing shook her Lady Passfield was a person whose existence she refused to countenance Solemn officials were horrified at the notion of sending out invitations under the title "To meet the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Mrs Webb ", ladies in the social hierarchy took her personally to task In vain She had been born into the social hierarchy, and was not to be browbeaten Her husband had gone into an imprisonment whose duration was limited He would escape he has escaped There was no reason in sense or logic why she should follow him She remained, obstinately, Mrs Webb She did her social chores with a good grace, more than that, she kept up the practice, initiated in 1924, of having the members of the Parliamentary Labour Party to lunch, in batches, in order that she and Sidney might get to know them There was no part of the duty attaching to the wife of the Colonial Secretary that she neglected, but she did not see becoming a Baroness as part of that duty Had her views

and her
husband's prevailed in 1924, when the crucial
decisions
about etiquette, manners. Court dress and the
relations of a
Labour Party to the Court generally had to be
taken, the
advent of the first Labour Government would
have been
employed to make a definite but perfectly
courteous break
with tradition. Now, in a small matter that
concerned only
herself, she was adamant "I am an old
woman," she
would say, "and I am not going to change "